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Atty. Dkt. No. 053466-0299

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akihiro FUNAKOSHI et al.
Title: A PREVENTIVE OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR PANCREATITIS
COMPRISING IL-6 ANTAGONIST AS AN ACTIVE INGREDIENT
Appl. No.: 09/762,550
International Filing Date: 8/23/1999
371(c) Date: 2/9/2001
Examiner: Lorraine Spector
Art Unit: 1647
Confirmation Number: 5276

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Interviews of November 7 through 18, 2011, as indicated in the Examiner's Interview Summary of November 22, 2011, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method of treating acute pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to treat acute pancreatitis to a subject in need of such treatment, wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing pancreatic edema in pancreatitis which method comprises administering an effective amount of an IL-6 antagonist to a subject in need of such treatment, wherein said IL-6 antagonist binds to IL-6 receptor and inhibits the binding of IL-6 or gp 130 to the IL-6 receptor and which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.
26. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing pancreatic edema which method comprises administering an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor at an amount effective to reduce pancreatic edema to a subject in need of suppressing pancreatic edema, wherein said antibody blocks signal transduction of IL-6.
- 27-39. (Cancelled)
40. (Previously Presented) A method of ameliorating the severity of acute pancreatitis which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to ameliorate the severity of acute pancreatitis, wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor and which blocks signal transduction of IL-6.
41. (Canceled)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended in the Interviews held on November 7 and 18, 2011. The Examiner indicated that all claims except claim 41 would be allowable. Applicants therefore cancel claim 41 by the present Supplemental Amendment.

No other claims are newly amended, added, or cancelled. This amendment is made further to the Examiner's interview, and merely formalizes the amendment requested to be made by the Examiner. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 14, 16-23, 25, 26 and 40 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 5, 2011

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 295-5569
Faesimile: (202) 672-5399

By 

Stephen B. Maebius
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,264